

2008.1.1.1.1.171

Marie Steele to Sam Steele

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.  
Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1901

My own darling Boy,

Once more I come to write my usual Sunday letter & without a line from you since that of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> & answered on or about the 30<sup>th</sup> of Oct. I got no letter from you at all last week, so the fortnight I feared will have passed as I told you. As the "Corinthian" with Capt. Main comes in this p.m I live in hope of receiving one or two tomorrow morning. Well, dear since I wrote last I called on Lady Strathcona. The ladies were out – a footman or butler told me so ere I had

[/pg 1]

[pg 2]

time to ask, but Lord Strathcona himself was in the hall just bidding farewell to a Lord Bishop – on seeing him I said to the man "I am sure Lord Strathcona will see me. I am Mrs. Steele" – the name acted like magic – the only gentleman himself asked me in & received me very graciously – he was exceedingly nice & we had quite a pleasant chat – told me if I wanted anything or any information to write to him direct, giving me his card on which he penned "London" in his own hand & the address of his residence. I was dressed in my very best & had on my lovely new black velvet hat which is trimmed with two

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

of your beautiful feathers & is dressy & very becoming. I think I looked pretty fine, my dear. I was charmed at being received as all the other ladies (there seemed to be a number calling) were not received – of course, they perhaps did not ask for him & as I tell you, the magic name seemed to work wonders. He spoke in the very highest terms of you & his "Strathcona's" & told me of what Genl. Buller & all the others whom you were with said of you & your men – showed me the King's colors once more & added "that he had great hopes of the corps being revised once more as they had promised him it would be." I came home quite pleased dear. Yesterday my

Flora had four teeth extracted – we went to Dr. Giles who seems much interested in the case – he said it was a very uncommon thing & studied her mouth well before he went to work. Dr. Macdowell gave her ether – she worked herself up to a terrific pitch & got quite hysterical before the operation. She went to sleep easily & the whole affair was over in a short time – although she had had an early breakfast & eaten nothing since, she was quite sick at her stomach, as she bled profusely & swallowed a lot of blood. She is however as bright as a dollar this

[/pg 3]

[pg 4]

morning & is delighted to know the dreaded thing is over. I gave her a fine new Fairy tale book & a nice box of chocolate creams. She was very much pleased, so all is well. This week I also made up a little parcel & brought it to the “Soldiers Wives League” as they are making up cases to send to the Canadians in the S.A.C. Every one of the forty four men from this district will get a separate parcel containing flannel shirt, socks, two handkerchiefs, candy, plum pudding & a lot of little extra's. Please if possible see that they get the parcels, if you can – then a thousand plum puddings are to go if they can be had – that

[/pg 4]

[pg 5]

is, a pound for each man & perhaps other things. Of course, my parcel has nothing whatever to do with these, as I send it myself. It contains a three pd pudding, a nice box of stuffed prunes, fine basket of figs, eight boxes of chocolates, & a red silk handkerchief. I sent a box of chocolate to Capt. Boddy with my best wishes & one to Kerr from the little ones. I hope all will reach you in good condition & that you shall enjoy them. I send chocolate as you seem to prefer that to any other sweet. To think of all these Xmas' that we are separated, is it not hard? surely the next one will see us spending a very happy one

[/pg 5]

[pg 6]

together! The little ones miss you so much when that time comes. Baby is getting better but his cold hangs on a long time – it has pulled him down, but as I will dose them up with Cod liver oil, they will soon be O.K. Gertrude is better & very anxious to commence her schooling again – she is very studious & will learn quickly: she has a nice character & is a bright, winsome child. Torla is growing all the time & her limbs are filling out – she will be plump if she continues. When her teeth are straight, she will look even better, but there is no doubt, she is a fine, aristocratic looking child

now. I enclose a copy of a letter I wrote Jim Henderson yesterday. I hope you will not be displeased, but I could not resist telling him plain facts – people in Coldwater will not believe you help him, even the Wilson's, Tom Moon's sister, as I mentioned once before. I think it very hard that they should misjudge you, as well as the old man himself. I enclose a lot of clippings which I feel sure will greatly interest you & show you the feeling in England, although you may know long ere this reaches you. Well, my dear old darling I will close. All join in fondest love to their dear Papa “the finest man on Earth, Mamma”. With many sweet kisses in which they join me, believe me,

Your own true, warmhearted wifie,

Maye.

[/pg 6]

[Enclosure – copy of letter to Mr. Henderson]

[pg 1]

26 Ste. Famille St.

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1901.

Dear Mr. Henderson,

Pray forgive my tardy acknowledgement of yours of Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. It was forwarded to me while I was visiting this summer & in the hurry of packing got mixed with letters that had been answered, hence the delay. Being confident that my mistake has not inconvenienced you very much I sincerely hope you will forgive me. I have not heard from my husband for a fortnight but he was enjoying the very best of health. He intended leaving for the Rustenburg road, & is, I presume somewhere in that vicinity.

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[pg 2]

I enclose a cheque for \$50.00 which will cover my husband's share towards Uncle John's housekeeping for the balance of the present year. I send it with pleasure, still I feel that it is not fair to Sam that Uncle John should not know that Sam does allow him something, as he informed me when I was there in May that my husband gave him nothing. I told him that he did & that I was positive of the fact. It may seem strange that I should refer to the matter, but I want my husband righted in his brothers' eyes & in the eyes of others who find it strange Sam should not be more generous, where his brother is concerned.

[/pg 2]

[pg 3]

Trusting Mrs. Henderson & yourself are in good health, believe me,  
Yours sincerely,  
Maye Steele.  
[/pg 3]